

# CARTSNEWS

*The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society*

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello to all CARTS members:

Spring is in the air here in South Carolina and I hope you all are feeling its effects. I know that I am excited about the turn in the weather. I'm also excited about our Spring CARTS meeting coming up in May. The date is May 11th and the location is Spartanburg, SC. Please mark your calendars! I hope to see everyone there.

I know I will be there, along with lots of new tokens for sale. I've purchased a couple of significant collections and I'll have some of the duplicates with me for sale or trade. The location will be a new one for us in Spartanburg. That's because the hotel where we've had two previous CARTS meetings is not open at this time. Our new location will be the Palmetto Room of the Holiday Inn Express, 895 Spartan Boulevard, Spartanburg, SC 29301. The Inn is located near Westgate Mall, which in turn is located at Exit 21 off of Interstate 26. We have the meeting room for the entire day, but will probably not need it after lunch. There are several restaurants nearby at which we can eat lunch. The meeting will be at 9AM.

Please see elsewhere in this newsletter for directions to the hotel.

Tony Chibbaro, CARTS President

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Well, here we go with the yearly plea for those procrastinators to get those dues checks in the mail. So, as usual, if there is a red "X" in the box below this will be your last issue of CARTSNEWS unless your dues are paid soon.



Treasurer Bob King reports we currently have 22 paid members and a bank account of \$950.34. So we are financially in good shape, but a good number of members have not yet chosen to continue their membership. Everyone be sure to attend the meeting on May 11! Detailed directions are given on page 6.

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Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism, will be gratefully accepted. Let us know!  
**Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only! Dues to Bob King only!**

## North Carolina Collector

Buyer of NC Singles or Collections  
State sections of B&D for sale/trade  
Trader list for all state tokens  
Enthusiastic researcher  
Robert S. King, 709 Cardinal Dr.  
Brevard, NC 28712  
828-883-8028 [tokenadict@citcom.net](mailto:tokenadict@citcom.net)

Want to buy southern states tokens.  
You price or I will make an offer, your choice.  
I don't make flea market offers. I pay top dollar for tokens I need and top wholesale for tokens I have.  
I want mavericks and one is fine. Give me A chance, we will make a deal.

### Want to buy R. G. Dun and Bradstreet

1963 & newer  
1882, 1884 & 1897  
Need a full book for 1910, 1911 or 1912

## A PAIR OF EARLY PICTORIAL BILLIARD TOKENS

Tony Chibbaro

Pictorial tokens have always held a certain allure for token collectors. To be honest, most of the trade tokens we place into our collections are fairly pedestrian as far as their looks are concerned. A few have interesting old-style fonts and feature attractive filigree or other decorative ornamentation such as arrows, rays, and assorted dingbats. (No, you haven't stumbled onto an old script of *All In The Family*. That's what they're actually called. If you don't believe me, google the term and see what *Wikipedia* has to say.) Even fewer tokens have actual pictorial representations on them, with the occasional rare one graced by a

nice-looking wreath or a pretty Liberty Head. The reason for this lack of graphic illustration is twofold. The average die cutter at the local tool & die shop usually did not have the artistic expertise to create attractive pictorial die work. And the paying customers, those that ordered the tokens, usually placed their orders with only utilitarian purposes in mind, and did not wish to pay extra for fancy die work.

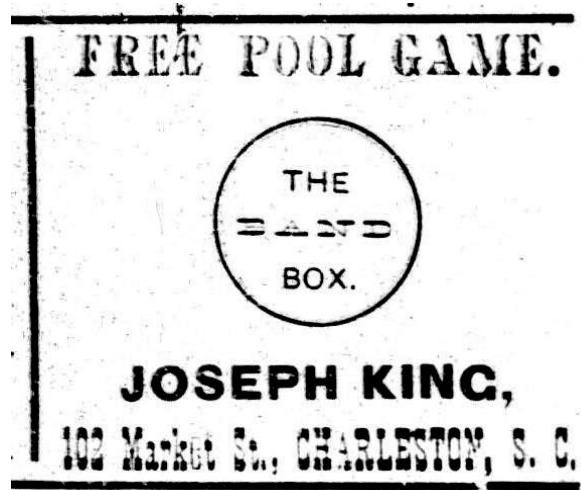
So when a local relic hunter called me the other day and said he had dug up a token with a picture of a pool table on it, I was certainly interested. He owed me a token as part of a trade we had made earlier, so it was just a matter of setting a time and place before I could add it to my collection. When we finally got together, he showed me the token below, still sporting some of the Sullivan's Island soil in which it was found.



Brass, 23.6mm, all lettering incuse.

As you can see the token was issued by one J. King, was valued at 5 cents, and carried the mark of McNamara Brothers of New York on the reverse. The latter company was a manufacturer of billiard tables in New York City during the late 1800s. Upon returning home, I did my due diligence and located Joseph King in my references with a downtown Charleston address. He first appeared in the 1883 Charleston City Directory at 102 Market Street, doing business as the owner of a saloon and billiard parlor. He called his business "The Band

Box" and advertised it by publishing a small ad in said city directory. See the ad below.



From the 1883 Charleston City Directory.

King did not appear in the 1884 city directory, but popped back up again in 1885 and 1886 at a different address – 226 King Street. This business was also short-lived, as all mention of him is gone for good by 1887. King must not have spent much time in Charleston, as he does not appear in any federal census report. (He could still have lived in the city in 1890, however, as the census records for that year were destroyed many years ago in a warehouse fire.) That's unfortunate, as I would like to know more about Joseph King and his billiard halls in downtown Charleston.

While looking at the J. King token, I couldn't help but note its resemblance to another token in my collection, one from an upstate billiard parlor operated by W.R. Nolen.



Brass, 23.6mm, all lettering incuse.

I obtained this token about a year ago at a coin shop in Columbia. It too has an interesting,

billiard-related pictorial on the obverse – a rack of pool balls and two cues. Just as on the J. King token, the inscription on the Nolen token is also incuse in nature and its diameter also measures exactly 23.6mm. Examining it more closely, I noted that the lettering of the proprietors' names on both tokens was exactly the same size, and that the incuse border of each was exactly alike. Although the Nolen token shows no backmark, I suspect that both of these tokens were made by the same diesinker in New York City. It is likely that both businessmen ordered pool tables from New York City suppliers and were given groups of tokens as a "perk" after completing their purchases.

Researching this token provided more information on the issuer than the aforementioned J. King token. In the 1880 federal census, William R. Nolen was listed as a 30-year old single male living in Spartanburg with an occupation shown as saloon owner. Various directory listings from 1875 to 1895 identified his business as saloon, barroom, billiards, and/or tobacco sales. He died in 1897 and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Spartanburg. An article on Spartanburg businesses, published in the *Charleston News & Courier* in 1890, mentioned that Nolen operated two first-class barrooms and billiard parlors, but failed to note their street addresses. Interestingly, a picture of one of Nolen's liquor flasks was located online. It has an applied paper label advertising Nolen's business on Main Street. See below.



The label reads: GO TO / W.R. NOLEN / FOR WINES, LIQUORS, &C. / IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC CIGARS & TOBACCO / PURE MOUNTAIN CORN WHISKEY A SPECIALTY / MAIN STREET, SPARTANBURG.

I am also aware of other tokens from this same token manufacturer. Illustrated below, and copied from the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Rulau's *Standard Catalog of U.S. Tokens: 1700-1900*, is an unidentified token issued by a billiard hall proprietor by the name of C.H. Fowler. The illustration appears on page 878 of Rulau's monumental reference work, in the "Location Not Known" section. Note that this token also has advertising from a billiard manufacturer on the reverse, in this case The J.M Brunswick & Balke Co. of New York. I also have in my collection another very similar token, issued by Owen Feeney of Baltimore, which also features the same backmark as the one below. Both of these tokens feature incuse lettering and pictorials of the same style as on the first two.



**Unattributed Maverick Token, brass, 24mm, all lettering incuse**

## NEW FINDS FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

**Tony Chibbaro**

It is not often that two new finds from the same town come to light within months of each other, and it is an even rarer event when those tokens are the first ones identified from the town. I have long entertained the idea that the town of Hartsville in Darlington County should have hosted at least one business that issued tokens. And I was proved right, not once, but twice, within a 6 month period.

Hartsville was a bustling town in the early 1900s, home to over 80 businesses by 1917. One of those businesses was the Southern Novelty Company, established by Maj. James Lide Coker in 1899, who was also the founder of Coker College. The company still exists today as Sonoco Packaging Company, one of South Carolina's largest

corporations. Back in 1899 the company's first product was a cone-shaped paper yarn carrier that was used for winding and carrying yarn. The introduction of that product helped to revolutionize the state's growing textile industry and provided many jobs for Hartsville's citizens. Today, Hartsville is the largest city by population in the county, even though it is not the county seat.

The first of the Hartsville tokens to come my way did so at the Midlands Coin Show in Columbia in May of last year. A customer brought in several tokens he had accumulated and among them was the token illustrated below.



**Aluminum, 38mm.**

This token was issued by P.A. Jackson, who operated a tailor shop in Hartsville in the early 1920s. Note the unusual reverse which states that the token is "Good For \$1.00 On a Suit or Overcoat". Many tokens like this were issued by various retail businesses across the nation, all in the same size as a silver dollar (38mm). I know of one collector who specialized in collecting this type of token. He amassed hundreds of different ones before dispersing his collection a few years back.

Jackson's full name was Plum Austin Jackson and he was born in 1891 in Beaufort County, North Carolina. As late as 1917, he was still living in Beaufort County and was working as a telephone & telegraph lineman in the town of Washington. Sometime prior to the 1920 census, Jackson moved to Hartsville and became the manager of a pressing club, as a dry cleaning establishment was often called then. He hung his own shingle out as a tailor by 1922 and started offering dry goods, along with clothing, by 1924. From 1928 to 1942, business directories

only show him as a dry cleaner. He died in August of 1943 in Florence, SC.

The second token from Hartsville to become part of my collection came from a fellow collector who lives in the state of Iowa. I first came across a listing for it in the maverick column of *Talkin' Tokens*, published by the National Token Collectors Association. The token was issued by the Boyd-Powe Drug Company and a photograph of it is shown below.



Aluminum, 19mm.

The aforementioned collector had sent in a listing of the token to the manager of NTCA's maverick column in December of 2007 so that it could be published in the association's newsletter. In this column, collectors can have their unidentified tokens listed by the editor in the hope that some other collector in the association will know where the token was issued. Thousands of maverick tokens have been featured in this column over the years, with hundreds of them being successfully identified. Such was the case with this token, as in October of 2012 an attribution was listed in the column showing that the token was issued in Hartsville, SC. When I saw this attribution I immediately pulled out my business directories to verify it. Sure enough, the information listed in the column was correct and I was hot on the trail of a new addition to my collection.

I immediately contacted the collector that listed the information back in 2007 and learned that he still owned the token and was willing to trade for a similar token from his home state. Luckily, I had some trading material from Iowa and we were able to consummate a trade.

While the token was in transit to South Carolina, I did some research on this company. The Boyd-Powe Drug Company was chartered on July 24, 1911 with a capitalization of \$6000. H.J. Nettles was President and C.E. Powe was Secretary. Nettles apparently was only a silent partner who provided the capital, as census information shows him to have been a 50 year-old farmer in 1910. In 1911, at the age of 24, Charles Edwin Powe was just out of pharmacy school. I could find no record of anyone named Boyd in relation to this company. The corporation was long-lived, as it lasted until shortly after Edwin Powe died in 1961. Even then, the business name lasted into the 1970s, as suggested by an article on the web stating that the company (or at least someone operating by that name) was in business as late as 1971.

So now, Hartsville has two tokens which can call the town home, but I suspect there's a third out there somewhere. I can feel it in my bones that a company as large and long-lasting as the Southern Novelty Company has issued some type of token over the years. If you see or hear of one, please let me know.

## NORTH CAROLINA NEW FIND

Bob King



WOLFE'S / (DIAMOND) / COFFEE / (DIAMOND) /  
SHOP // GOOD FOR / 5¢ /\* IN TRADE - RD BR 21 Rare

Dun and Bradstreet list Wolfe's Coffee Shop from 1954 through 1962 in Greensboro. Greensboro City Directories list the business as Wolfe's Soda Shop owned by Marshall N. Wolfe and located at 2418 Spring Garden. Wolfe's Self Service, a fancy grocery store, was next door at 2416 Spring Garden. This business had the same owner.

## A VIRGINIA TOKEN LISTED AS NORTH CAROLINA

Bob King



LUCAS / VA-CAR / BUS / LINES / J.P. LUCAS,  
PROP. // ROUND TRIP FARE / \$390 / (ORN) - SC  
(4) BR 42 Rare

Lucas Va-Car Bus Lines is a transportation token, Atwood-Coffee Number NC-280-B. This token is from Joe P. Lucas an African American man who lived in Suffolk County, Virginia in 1930. These tokens should be listed as Virginia in the Atwood-Coffee Catalogue instead of North Carolina but they were used in North Carolina as well as Virginia so they would be a two state collectible token. Mr. Lucas delivered laborers from the Elizabeth City Area to the shipyard at Norfolk.

Previous to buying this token on E-Bay I hadn't seen any of these tokens so it was a very nice to get this one.

I will inform The AVA that this token should be moved to Virginia so I thought it would be nice for our members to know the reason for change.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### WANTED

**GEORGIA TOKENS, ENCASED, MASONIC PENNIES, ETC. WANTED.** Will purchase or attempt to trade. Randy Partin, 1314 Keystone Pt., Auburndale, FL 33823.  
[RPAR10@VERIZON.NET](mailto:RPAR10@VERIZON.NET)

**TAX TOKENS WANTED** - Looking for Illinois Provisional (Local) tax tokens to complete my collect. Also looking for items (tokens, documents, etc.) related to South Carolina sale tax.  
Pascal S. Brock, [psbrock@truvista.net](mailto:psbrock@truvista.net)

**WANT TO BUY TOKENS INCLUDING MAVERICKS** Ingle System Tokens and all states.  
Bob King, 709 Cardinal Dr, Brevard, NC 28712 828-883-8028 [tokenaddict@citcom.net](mailto:tokenaddict@citcom.net)

### SALE OR TRADE

**INTERESTED IN TOKENS?** I have tokens from many states and many collecting interests for sale or trade on my website: <http://www.angelfire.com/sc/sctokens/> Please check out what I have. You may find something of interest. Tony Chibbaro, PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127 [chibbaro@mindspring.com](mailto:chibbaro@mindspring.com)

### DIRECTIONS TO THE MAY 11 MEETING IN SPARTANBURG

**From I-26** take exit 21 B onto US 29 N / Warren Abernathy Hwy. In .6 mile turn left onto Blackstock Rd. In .7 mile turn left onto Spartan Blvd. You should see the Holiday Inn Express.

**From I-85** take I-26 south (the signs will say I-26 east) and follow the directions above.

**We'll be in the Palmetto Room. DRIVE CAREFULLY**